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MCGINN & GIBB, PLLC  
8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD  
SUITE 200  
VIENNA, VA 22182-3817

EXAMINER

VO, TIM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2181

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/633,876

Applicant(s)

ASAAD ET AL.

Examiner

Tim T. Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 16, 17 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14-15-18-19, 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Part III DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Notice to Applicant(s)***

This application has been examined. Claims 1-21 are pending.

#### **Content of Specification**

1. Applicant is reminded to fill-out the Cross-References to Related Applications correspondingly. See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § **102(e)** as being anticipated by Ahern patent number 6,088,752 refer hereinafter "Ahern".

As for claim 1, Ahern teaches a docking station for a mobile computer (see figure 5, docking station), comprising:

a dock housing for being coupled to a desktop display (see figure 3, figure 5, docking station, monitor 138 and column 9 lines 5-21, wherein a portable computer 126

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is docked into a desktop docking station 130, a monitor 138 is connected to the docking station) and including a first bus (see figure 3, bus 12); and

a bridge coupled between the first bus and a second bus (see figure 1-2 and column 5 lines 34-37, wherein a bridge is coupled between the first bus 12 and a second bus 10), the first bus residing in the docking house and the second bus for being coupled to the mobile computer (see figures 1, 3 and 5, wherein bus 12 is coupled to the docking station, and bus 10 is connected to the portable computer 126).

As for claim 2, Ahern teaches wherein the bridge comprises a serial bridge, which separates two sides of the bridge using a parallel connector (see figure 1, elements 26, 28, 30 and 32, and column 6 lines 61-64, wherein a bridge is located between buses 10 and 12 and a parallel connector for connecting encoders and decoders 30, 32, respectively).

As for claim 3, Ahern teaches wherein the bridge comprises a serial bridge, which separates two sides of the bridge using a serial communication layer (see figures 1, 5 lines 40, 46 and column 6 lines 23-30, wherein lines 40, 46 links serially).

As for claim 4, Ahern teaches wherein one of the first and second buses comprises a primary bus and the other of the first and second buses comprises a secondary bus (see figure 1 primary bus 10, secondary bus 12) and wherein the bridge comprises a separated bridge such that a first side of the separated bridge is place on the primary bus (see figure 1, the bridge between primary bus 10 and secondary bus 12, separated in two portions, the top portion is connected to the primary bus 10), and a second side of the separated bridge is implemented on the secondary bus or a bus

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extension (see figure 1, the bridge between primary bus 10 and secondary bus 12, separated in two portions, the bottom portion is connected to the secondary bus 12),

As for claim 5, Ahern teaches converting a parallel bus data into a serial stream and back for the serial communication layer (see figure 3 and column 7 line 64 to column 8 line 5, wherein lines 81 and 83 connected through the a connection assembly 90 for connection to various parallel and serial peripherals such as printers and modems, thus communication with these devices via serial link 40, 46).

As for claim 8, Ahern teaches a communication system, comprising:

a desktop display panel, including a graphics adaptor, for being operatively coupled to the mobile computer (see figure 5, element 138, video card and column 2 lines 14-17);

a pointing device for providing inputs for display on the panel (see figure 5 element 134);

a dock for mating with the mobile computer using a connection over the I/O bus to drive the graphics adaptor and the panel along with the pointing device (see figure 5-6, elements 126, 40 and column 9 lines 5-33, wherein portable computer 126 is connected to the docking station via line 40 via docking station, wherein the docking station provides connection such as video card, mouse to the portable computer 126),

wherein computing power is provided by the mobile computer with access t the user's data from the mobile computer (see column 8 lines 52-67 and figure 5, elements 142, 140, portable computer 126 and abstract, wherein the portable computer contained

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battery for power, thus after the portable computer is mated to the docking station, the portable computer 126 would be able to access the CD-ROM and the hard drive).

As for claim 9, Ahern teaches the connection comprises one of a serial connection and a parallel connection over the I/O bus (see figure 5, 40, 46 and column 6 lines 23-30, wherein lines 40, 46 links serially, and figure 1, elements 26, 28, 30 and 32, and column 6 lines 61-64, wherein a bridge is located between buses 10 and 12 and a parallel connector for connecting encoders and decoders 30, 32, respectively).

As for claim 10, Ahern teaches a computer system, comprising:

a mobile computer (see figure 5, element 126);

a docking station for receiving the mobile computer (see figure 5, the portable computer 126 docked to the docking station);

a separated bridge having a first side coupled to the mobile computer and a second side is coupled to the docking station (see figure 1 and column 5 lines 35-37 which disclose a bridge is located between the busses 10 and 12, wherein the upper portion is connected to the portable computer 126, the bottom portion is connected to the docking station);

a flat panel display coupled to the docking station and for being attached to the mobile computer via the docking station (see figure 5, portable computer 126, wherein the portable computer has a flat panel display and the flat panel display is attached to the portable computer 126), the first and second sides of the separated bridge being mated by one of a serial connector and a parallel connector (see figure 5, 40, 46 and column 6 lines 23-30, wherein lines 40, 46 links serially, and figure 1, elements 26, 28,

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30 and 32, and column 6 lines 61-64, wherein a bridge is located between buses 10 and 12 and a parallel connector for connecting encoders and decoders 30, 32, respectively).

As for claim 11, Ahern teaches the first side of the separated bridge is placed in the mobile computer and the second side is placed in the docking station (see figure 1, wherein the upper portion is placed in the portable computer and the lower portion is placed in the docking station).

As for claim 12, Ahern teaches the mobile computer comprises primary bus and an extended bus and an extended bus is the docking station function as a secondary bus (see figure 2-3, primary bus 10, secondary bus 12), and wherein the secondary bus drives adaptors for peripheral components including any of a high resolution graphics component and a disk drive (see figure 3, wherein the secondary bus connecting to the video card for providing graphics, further in figure 5 discloses a hard drive and disk drive).

As for claim 13, Ahern teaches wherein the docking station comprises a base of the flat panel display (see figure 5, monitor 138).

As for claim 17, Ahern teaches wherein the flat panel display includes a base (see figure 5, portable computer 126, wherein the portable computer has as flat panel display), the base for attaching to the mobile computer to the display (see figure 5, portable computer 126, wherein the base of the flat panel is attached to the portable computer).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6-7, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahern.

As for claims 6-7, Ahern does not expressly teach a serial stream is supported no more than four wires. "Official Notice" is taken that both concept and the advantages for providing a serial stream bus with 4 wires or less to Ahern's system are well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to include a serial stream bus with 4 wires and 4 pins correspondingly to Ahern would provide a simple bus structure. Further, the less wires are being utilized would reduce hardware cost.

As for claim 16, Ahern does not expressly teach wherein the docking station selectively providing adjustable to accommodate a variety of different sized mobile computer. "Official Notice" is taken that both concept and the advantages for providing selectively adjustable docking station to receive different sized mobile computer to Ahern's system are well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to include adjusting sizes of portable computers into the docking station to Ahern because docking station of Ahern would be universal to accommodate variety of different portable computers from different vendors.

As for claim 20, Ahern does not expressly teach wherein the docking station has a cooling fan. "Official Notice" is taken that both concept and the advantages for providing a cooling fan to Ahern's docking station are well known and expected in the

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art. It would have been obvious to install a cooling fan to Ahern because it would prevent the docking station from overheating and damage to electronic components.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 14-15, 18-19 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Tim Vo, whose telephone number is (703) 308-5862. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00AM- 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Peter Wong*, can be reached on (703) 305-3477 or via e-mail addressed to *[peter.wong@uspto.gov]*. The fax number for this Group is (703) 308-5358.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to *[tim.vo@uspto.gov]*.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631.



**Tim Vo**  
**9/24/02**